

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission
John W. McCormack Building, Room 1101
One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-9380

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Retirement Boards

FROM: Robert F. Stalnaker, Executive Director

RE: **EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM/H.5020**

DATE: June 15, 1998

As you know the implementation date of July 1, 1998 is rapidly approaching! As I informed you at the recent MACRS conference, I, along with members of my staff have been in constant contact with various members of the House and Senate relative to the adoption of **H.5020**. However, nothing has happened as of this date.

The favorable support by the House and Senate leadership is imperative to an expeditious adoption of this legislation.

Consequently, I am asking that you notify all of your board members to contact your respective legislative delegation and urge favorable action on **H.5020**. **This measure is expected to be reported favorably out of the House Committee on Ways and Means within the next several days.** Some general talking points are as follows:

- **Absent legislative action on H.5020, implementation date for the Early Intervention Program is July 1, 1998.**
- **If local retirement boards are forced to implement this program, it could be a breach of board members fiduciary responsibility. A system may not expend trust fund money for active employee benefits or non-related retirement activities.**
- **The net effect of passage of H.5020 will result in significant savings to the impacted employers as increased workplace safety, rehabilitation of injured employees and accommodation of injured workers reduces the costs associated with workers compensation and disability retirement.**

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- **Many cities and towns currently provide for early intervention for their employees through worker's compensation programs or through collective bargaining agreements.**
- **H.5020 is a product of the Early Intervention Task Force which was appointed pursuant to C.17 of the Acts of 1997 of the Massachusetts Legislature, which charged the Task Force to study and make recommendations to the Legislature by October 1, 1997. They completed that task and the unanimous agreement is embodied in H.5020.**

Now is the time for all of us to work together as a community to accomplish this hard fought goal.